

# Article Alert

No. 11, November 2006

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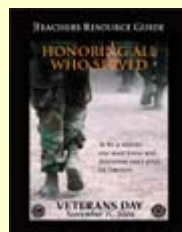
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## AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH, NOVEMBER 2006

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994.

### VETERANS DAY - NOVEMBER 11, 2006

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars. The day has evolved into also honoring living military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation. A national ceremony takes place at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.



### THANKSGIVING DAY - NOVEMBER 23, 2006

What many regard as the nation's first Thanksgiving took place in December 1621 as the religious separatist Pilgrims held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest. The day did not become a national holiday until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving. Later, President Franklin Roosevelt clarified that Thanksgiving should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month to encourage earlier holiday shopping, never on the occasional fifth Thursday.

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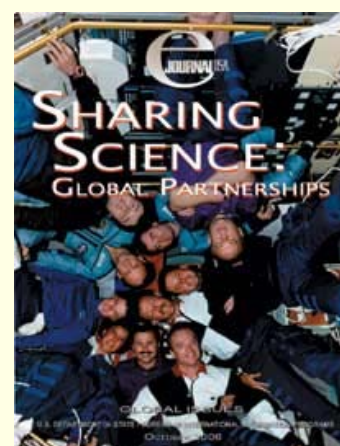
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## NEW ONLINE PUBLICATIONS



### Sharing Science: Global Partnerships

This edition of eJournal USA focuses on science as an inherently international undertaking in which researchers share the results of their work with a scientific community that spans the planet, through a growing array of collaborative efforts, technical journals, conferences, the Internet, and dedicated high-bandwidth data networks for research and education. The eJournal has many examples of U.S. participation and leadership in these international undertakings.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/1006/ijge/ijge1006.htm>

### 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic



The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS provides for regular reporting to the General Assembly on global progress, using indicators developed by UNAIDS, individual nations and a diverse range of partners. To inform the five-year assessment of progress by the UN General Assembly in 2006, UNAIDS reviewed country progress reports on core AIDS indicators, with particular attention to quantifiable targets that were to be reached by December 2005.

The 2006 Report on the global AIDS epidemic contains the most comprehensive set of data on the country response to the AIDS epidemic ever compiled.

[http://www.unaids.org/en/HIV\\_data/2006GlobalReport/default.asp](http://www.unaids.org/en/HIV_data/2006GlobalReport/default.asp)

### World AIDS Day 2006

World AIDS Day, observed December 1 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the global AIDS epidemic caused by the spread of HIV infection.

The concept of a World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Since then, it has been taken up by governments, international organizations and charities around the world.



DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Kurth, James AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIZATION PROJECTS ABROAD (American Spectator, Vol. 39, No. 8, October 2006, pp. 40-47)

The author examines the successes and failures of America's democratization projects abroad over the past century. Among the greatest success stories were in Germany and Japan after World War II and post-Cold War projects in Eastern Europe. There are many common factors in these successes: the countries involved were industrial and modern, had experienced total military defeat, had ethnically homogeneous populations and faced a greater foreign threat. The contrast between these nations, and the Middle East, where many democratization projects are failing, "could not be greater," says Kurth, who believes that democratization projects in Latin America have a promising future.

2. Mann, Thomas E.; Ornstein, Norman J. WHEN CONGRESS CHECKS OUT (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 6, November/December 2006, pp. 69-82)

This article examines Congressional oversight, which is meant to "keep mistakes from happening or from spiraling out of control," the authors write. In the past six years, Mann and Ornstein argue, congressional oversight of the executive, especially on foreign and national security policy, has virtually collapsed. While foreign policy, the Iraq war, the NSA's surveillance program, treatment of detainees and homeland security top Americans' interests, Congress has not asked how these policies have been carried out, how the laws are executed or how taxpayer dollars are spent to deal with these issues. Mann and Ornstein say the reason for the lack of oversight is because of the executive branch's "willful denial of accurate and meaningful information to Congress," the growing partisan divide in Congress, the reluctance of congressional Republicans to criticize the Bush administration and the lack of time members of Congress spend in Washington. Fixing the oversight problem is part of a larger challenge "to mend the broken legislative branch and restore a healthy balance to U.S. democracy," the authors write.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

3. Broad, Robin; Cavanagh, John THE HIJACKING OF THE DEVELOPMENT DEBATE: HOW FRIEDMAN AND SACHS GOT IT WRONG (World Policy Journal, vol. 23, no. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 21-30)

The authors refute two books, Thomas Friedman's THE WORLD IS FLAT and Jeffrey Sachs' THE END OF POVERTY with the claim that they have "narrowed the debate with simplistic slogans of 'more aid' and 'more trade,'" and they have done this by putting forward myths about the poor, economic development, and the global economy. Broad and Cavanagh argue that this one-sided approach harkens back to the Reagan "free market" era of privatization, government deregulation and unfettered trade.

4. Khanna, Tarun; Palepu, Krishna EMERGING GIANTS: BUILDING WORLD-CLASS COMPANIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (Harvard Business Review, vol. 84, no. 10, October 2006, pp. 60-69)

Khanna and Palepu, both of the Harvard Business School, say companies in emerging countries can compete successfully, both at home and abroad. Their six-year study of local companies that succeeded against the onslaught of multinational corporations revealed three primary strategies. Some capitalized on their knowledge of local product markets; some exploited their knowledge of local talent and capital markets; and others exploited institutional voids to create profitable businesses. The authors provide real world examples of the successful implementation of these strategies.

5. Martin, John GLOBALIZATION AND JOBS (OECD Observer, no. 256, July 2006, pp. 10-11)

Martin, Director of OECD Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, says globalization produces winners and losers. The job threat is real, he acknowledges, but it is manageable as long as the right policies are in place. His recommendations include: practical mechanisms to compensate the "losers", good macroeconomics, flexible labor and product markets, strong employment, and effective lifelong learning/education policies.

GLOBAL ISSUES

6. Jaffe, Eric GOOD GONE WILD (Science News, Vol. 170, No. 14, September 30, 2006, pp. 218-220)

Ecotourism allows tourists to learn about exotic habitats and rare plant and animal species, while generating income for local populations, giving them an incentive to protect the environment rather than exploiting it. In reality, there are problems with ecotourism, especially where it is insufficiently regulated by governments eager to protect a source of income. Some species may be so shy that the presence of humans harms the mating or nesting habits of animals; tourists may unwittingly damage flora or fauna. Governments may also be unable or unwilling to process trash left behind by tourists, which can cause an ingestion hazard to wild animals; tour operators may construct facilities for visitors that have a detrimental effect on the local habitat. Local populations may also suffer from the lack of access to resources they previously used to survive.

7. Leahy, Michael BREAKING THE CYCLE (Washington Post Magazine, October 8, 2006)

Researchers at the Walter Reed Army Institute in the Washington, D.C. area, are trying to develop a vaccine that will wipe out malaria, a disease that kills at least 1 million a year and leaves its survivors with long-term effects that can impede their future productivity. A variety of obstacles stand in their way, not the least of which is the parasite itself.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

8. Henderson, Shirley WHO'S WHO IN THE TECHNOLOGY BOOM (Ebony, October 2006, pp. 52-60)

Not well known is that some of the industry players behind many of the technological innovations in recent decades have been African-Americans, notes the author. Among those profiled in the article are wireless LAN expert John Terry, inventor Thomas Mensah, physicist Shirley Ann Jackson, software engineer Kerrie Holley and scientist James West. The author notes that African-American scientists and engineers have a major role to play in encouraging more students from minority backgrounds to go into professions related to science and technology.

9. Jacoby, Tamar IMMIGRATION NATION (Foreign Affairs, vol. 85, no. 6, November/December 2006)

In this essay Jacoby, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute, argues that the overwhelming majority of Americans want a combination of tougher enforcement and "earned citizenship" for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country. He says the best way to regain control is not to crack down on illegal immigrants, but to liberalize U.S. laws by expanding quotas and establishing a guest-

worker program more in line with the half-million new workers now needed each year to keep the U.S. economy growing. Jacoby also calls for "a national, mandatory, electronic employment-verification system" that informs employers in a timely way whether job applicants are authorized to work in the United States. Acknowledging the serious fears that immigrants will not or cannot assimilate, Jacoby says that eliminating "the vast illegal world of second-class noncitizens" would remove barriers to Americanization.

10. McDonough, John SURVIVAL BY SONG (Downbeat, vol. 73, no. 10, October 2006, pp. 34-41)

Focusing on some of the reasons Tony Bennett has had such a long and prosperous career, McDonough describes his visit to the studio where Bennett is recording his album of American classics with a number of top contemporary artists. Prompt, courteous, and professional, Bennett reminisces about his career, his standard repertoire, his love of jazz, and his legacy. At 80, Bennett "still works as hard as ever, grateful that he has the opportunity to entertain audiences around the world." An interview with three of Bennett's musical directors, John Bunch, Lee Musiker, and Torrie Zito, accompanies the article.

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☐ New E-Journal, October 2006 "Sharing Science: Global Partnerships"